

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, IN HONOR OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT PFC. WILLIAM K. NAKAMURA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to name the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse" in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. William K. Nakamura.

William K. Nakamura was born and raised in an area of Seattle that used to be known as "Japantown." In 1942, while attending the University of Washington, William K. Nakamura, his family, and 110,000 other Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated to federal internment camps. While living at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho, Nakamura and his brothers chose to prove their patriotism by enlisting in the United States Army. William K. Nakamura was assigned to the serve with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The courageous service of this unit during World War II made it one of the most decorated in the history of our nation's military.

William K. Nakamura distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on July 4, 1944, near Castellina, Italy. As Pfc. Nakamura's platoon approached Castellina, it came under heavy enemy fire. Acting on his own initiative, Pfc. Nakamura crawled within 15 yards of the enemy's machine gun nest and used four hand grenades to neutralize the enemy fire which allowed his platoon to continue its advance. Pfc. Nakamura's company was later ordered to withdraw from the crest of a hill. Rather than retreat with his platoon, Pfc. Nakamura took a position to cover the platoon's withdrawal. As his platoon moved toward safety they suddenly became pinned down by machine gun fire. Pfc. Nakamura crawled toward the enemy's position and accurately fired upon the machine gunners, allowing his platoon time to withdraw to safety. It was during this heroic stand that Pfc. Nakamura lost his life to enemy sniper fire.

Pfc. Nakamura's commanding officer nominated him for the Medal of Honor but the racial climate of the time prevented him, as well as other soldiers of color, from receiving the nation's highest honor. In the spring of this year, 56 years after he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, William Kenzo Nakamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Designating the United States Courthouse in Seattle in Pfc. Nakamura's name is a fitting way to acknowledge the memory of a true American hero, who for so many years was denied the honor he so justly deserved. Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduce today is broadly supported by veterans' service organizations and elected officials in the Pacific Northwest. I urge speedy passage of this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST VETERANS DAY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I express the sense that special recognition should be given to the observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2000, the first Veterans Day of the 21st Century. As we enter this new millennium, it is important to preserve the memory of our Nation's veterans and to teach the next generations of their sacrifices. Our veterans are responsible for securing and preserving the freedom that all Americans now enjoy.

This first Veterans Day of the 21st Century offers all Americans a special chance to recognize the contributions of our veterans in defending freedom and democracy. It is also an appropriate occasion to make a much greater effort to educate our country's children on the contributions of veterans in defending the freedoms the Nation enjoys so that the memory of those contributions will be preserved throughout the 21st Century. I believe children throughout the Nation would benefit from education that places greater emphasis on the Armed Services' role in shaping the history of the United States.

It is extremely important for us to remember the more than 700,000 brave Americans who sacrificed their lives while serving this nation so that America's children may continue to live in a country founded on the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy. Veterans Day also affords us the opportunity to thank the more than 25,000,000 veterans currently living in the United States. It is important for them to know that our country is grateful for their service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the first Veterans Day of the 21st Century. Also, join me in thanking the veterans who sacrificed so much to protect our way of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. CLARE M. ALBOM

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mrs. Clare M. Albom upon her retirement as Director of the Senior Center in Vernon, Connecticut. Serving more than 18 years as Director, Mrs. Albom has proven to be a tremendous asset for seniors in Vernon.

Mrs. Albom is a highly regarded member of the community. Since accepting the position as consultant for the Vernon Senior Center 18 years ago, Mrs. Albom has helped build it into one of the top centers for senior citizens in the State of Connecticut. During her tenure, Mrs. Albom supervised a comprehensive physical renovation project to further improve the Center. Mrs. Albom is also responsible for creating a unique and effective organizational structure for the Center with help from part-time staff, volunteers and senior citizens. Mrs. Albom

worked to establish important programs to help senior citizens in Vernon with a wide range of issues, including assistance with the ConnPace prescription drug program, Medicare, income taxes, rental assistance and recreation arrangements.

In her time away from the center, Mrs. Albom contributes a weekly column for senior citizens in the Saturday edition of the Journal Inquirer. Mrs. Albom is also a former teacher in the Vernon school system and a devoted wife and mother. Mrs. Albom's biggest influence on the Vernon community has been her solid commitment to the Town as a whole and, more specifically, to the Senior Center to which she has dedicated the past 18 years of her life and, even today, finds difficult to leave.

Mr. Speaker, I join residents from Vernon in commending Mrs. Clare M. Albom on her superb tenure at the Vernon Senior Center. She is a kind, selfless, special person and an example for all.

VIEWPOINTS OF WALKER F. RUCKER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Walker F. Rucker of Greensboro, North Carolina, is a veteran of the Second World War, a lay historian, and a man unafraid to speak his mind. Along with 38 other veterans from the Greensboro area, Mr. Rucker wishes to have his thoughts on the conduct of the President recorded for posterity.

Mr. Rucker has written and spoken eloquently of the sacrifices which his generation has made on behalf of our Republic. In light of their contributions, and those of preceding generations, these men are disturbed by the President's conduct during his two terms in office, which they believe manifests a basic disrespect for the values which they hold in such high regard. They are especially appalled by the events in the White House and elsewhere that led to the President's impeachment; and further object to his fund-raising tactics, his motivations for shaping certain foreign policy scenarios, his posture toward and treatment of our military, and a seeming disinterest in the imperative to adhere to the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I have paraphrased Mr. Rucker's views at this point. Anyone who knows him can fully appreciate his passion for a cause, his command of the King's English, and his sense of history. Accordingly, I thought it also appropriate to quote from a petition which he has circulated on this subject. Mr. Rucker notes that historical precedents teach us that external forces do not fell great Republics such as ours; they implode from within. To invoke Mr. Rucker verbatim:

"The Tree of Liberty has never been toppled by an external whirlwind. Rather, in the past it has perished because a vine which grows in its shadow and under its protection eventually smothers it. In nature this is the work of the strangler fig; in Government, this is the work of Corrupt Political Adventurers. Republics are a tenuous form of Government. Their demise does not come about by a single seismic political event, but rather is initiated by an unchallenged violation of its Founding Precepts. Thus the first successful violation of a State's Tenants of

Faith begins the inevitable Decline and Fall of that State. Thus: (1) "Democratic Athens did not fail because of the annihilation of its fleet in 404 B.C. by Sparta. Rather a generation earlier Alcibiades, when summoned to appear in Athens to explain the Syracuse Debacle, deserted first to Sparta and later to Persia. (2) "Republican Rome fell, not because Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon, but because a score of years earlier Sulla violated the Roman Constitution by leading seven renegade legions into the defenseless city. (3) "The First Republic of France succumbed to Bonapartism because a decade earlier the "Incorruptible" Assembly was replaced by the Corrupt Directorate.

"Some 162 years ago, a 28-year-old frontiersman who became our 16th President foresaw such a challenge to our nation's foundation and told us how to respond:

At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies in Europe, Asia, and Africa combined, with all the treasures of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Bonaparte for a commander could not by force take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we must live through all time or die by suicide. The question recurs, "How shall we fortify against it?" The answer is simple. Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher of this posterity, swear by the blood of the (American) Revolution never to violate the least particular, the laws of the country, and never tolerate their violation by others.—(Abraham Lincoln, The Perpetuation of Our Political Institution, Springfield Lyceum, January 27, 1838.)"

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rucker and his colleagues believe that the President should resign prior to January 3, 2001, in deference to their beliefs and reading of American history. I believe that this is an old war that distracted the Congress from its business and the nation from its tranquility. Given the President's transgressions, however, it had to be fought, and as a result the President became the second man to be impeached by the House of Representatives. I do not wish to fight this war again, but I have enough respect for Walker Rucker and like-minded men to submit their views on this unfortunate subject in our nation's history for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PAULINE F. SMITH

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my very special constituents, Mrs. Pauline F. Smith, of Allentown, Georgia as she prepares to celebrate her 78th birthday. It gives me great pleasure to not only wish her a happy birthday, but also to commend her for her outstanding service to her community and country.

Mrs. Smith, a life long Georgian, was born on October 2, 1922 in Tate, Georgia. Although

Mrs. Smith's life accomplishments are too vast and rich to fully recount here, highlights demonstrate that Mrs. Smith has enriched and touched the lives of many through her commitment to, and love for, her family, community, and country.

Mrs. Smith was married in 1944 to Mr. Lonnie Smith Jr. and moved to Allentown, Georgia where they raised two children, Sandra and Denise. Beyond her role as loving wife and mother, however, Mrs. Smith has played and continues to play a significant role in her community and in her church, the Allentown Methodist Church.

Mrs. Smith's record of public service is also remarkable, both for its length and quality. In various capacities, from her work in the selective service office to her many years of service at Robins Air Force Base, Mrs. Smith selflessly served her country for 33 years, 3 months, and 3 days.

Therefore, in recognition of her tremendous service and in honor of her birthday, I am happy, Mr. Speaker, to rise today and join Mrs. Smith's family and friends in wishing her a very happy 78th birthday, and in wishing her many more happy and healthy birthdays ahead.

DEATH OF SETH FOTI

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Diplomatic Courier Service, U.S. Department of State, lost one of its own on August 23, 2000. Mr. Seth Foti, age 31, lost his life while serving his nation in the line of duty in the Persian Gulf. Seth was one of 143 passengers aboard the Gulf Air flight that crashed in Bahrain on August 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Foti family. Seth is survived by his wife Anisha, his father Dominic Foti, his mother Deyann Davis, and step-father Maxwell Davis.

The U.S. Diplomatic Couriers face hardship on a daily basis. Not everyone is qualified for such a highly-sought-after position in public service. Just a few of the challenges with which couriers contend, include constant travel, traversing several time zones, long hours, solitary travel and flight delays. U.S. Diplomatic Couriers are integral in the work of the Foreign Service. These men and women deliver documents and materials that are vital to U.S. interest and foreign policy goals. It can be dangerous.

The tragic loss of Mr. Foti, the sixth courier killed in the service's 82 year history, reminds us all of the bravery and commitment associated with our Diplomatic Couriers.

Seth was one of the new breed of couriers who recently joined the Diplomatic Courier Service in April 1999. He was a young, bright, energetic man who was willing to accept the dangers associated with a career in the U.S. Diplomatic Courier Service. Seth's supervisor, Mike Meeker, stated the following, "Seth Foti was such a dedicated colleague, professional in every respect. His professionalism was unmatched. He knew how to negotiate his way through the most difficult of airports. Always cheerful, charismatic and well respected by his fellow couriers and those who served with him

at our embassy in Bahrain. He loved his parents and step-dad and was so excited about his recent marriage to Anisha."

As Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I want to extend my sincere condolences to the Foti family and the U.S. Diplomatic Courier Service family. Seth was a true public servant of the people who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I thank him. The extensive amount of travel is an inherent risk and danger associated with the demanding job of a U.S. Diplomatic Courier. I salute the bravery and commitment that these fine men and woman demonstrate on a daily basis for the U.S. Department of State and the American people.

FREDERICK L. DEWBERRY, JR.
POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I am pleased to join my Government Reform Committee colleague, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT (R-IL) in the consideration of H.R. 4451, H.R. 4451, which designates a United States Post Office after "Frederick L. Dewberry, Jr.," was introduced by my good friend and committee colleague, Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS (D-MD), on May 15, 2000.

Mr. Frederick L. Dewberry, Jr. was born and raised in Baltimore City. He is a graduate of Loyola College and received a law degree from the University of Baltimore. A dedicated and distinguished World War II veteran, Lieutenant Dewberry served in the U.S. Navy, working as a sonar operator on submarines. Returning to Maryland, Mr. Dewberry held the very important post of Chairman of the Baltimore County Council from 1964 to 1966. From 1979 to 1984, Frederick Dewberry was the Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. He passed 10 years ago, on July 9, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift adoption of this measure and commend my colleague, Congressman CUMMINGS for seeking to honor Frederick L. Dewberry—a veteran and true public servant.

REGARDING THE BENEFICIARY IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues on the Commerce Committee in introducing the Beneficiary Improvement and Protection Act of 2000. I want to commend Chairmen BLILEY and BILIRAKIS, as well as Ranking Democratic Members DINGELL and BROWN for putting together a Commerce Committee initiative to repair some of the damage wrought by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I commend them because Members